



Thursday
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

MARGINALIZED BY MEDIA | PART 1 OF 3

In full color

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THE FACES & VOICES THE MAINSTREAM LEAVES OUT 8-9**



Dating with an age gap **4**

Oktoberfests! Beer fests! **10**

Where to laugh this week **12**

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

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THURSDAY

88 69

Hot!



FRIDAY

79 69

Go outside



SATURDAY

76 68

Beautiful

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By David Heinzmann and
Jeremy Gomer | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Facing a wave of rising violence, and the perception that the Chicago Police Department is overwhelmed, Mayor Emanuel's administration announced plans Wednesday to hire hundreds of new officers to rein in bloodshed ravaging the city's most troubled neighborhoods.

The hiring plan includes more than 500 new police officers, and hundreds more to beef up the ranks of detectives and supervisors.

At a news conference in police headquarters, Superintendent Eddie Johnson said the additions of hundreds of officers will bring the department close to 13,500 sworn positions. That would mark the highest number of budgeted police jobs since the Richard M. Daley administration, he said.

"I owe you a department stronger in numbers, equipped for the 21st century, richer in skills and best practices to manage and challenge peacefully and honorably," Johnson said.

"This is not an easy time to be a police officer," he said. "The pressure to perform is greater than ever before. The cameras and phone videos means we are always constantly in the spotlight."

When Johnson was named by Emanuel as

his top cop, the two discussed their plan for how the Police Department can move forward, Johnson said.

"We came back and built our plan," he said. "And let me tell you people, the mayor delivered for us."

The 970 sworn positions includes hiring 500 more cops, Johnson said. He acknowledged that the department cannot send officers from safer neighborhoods to more crime-ridden neighborhoods.

"Gang members will figure that out and shift their operations, and we can't rob Peter to pay Paul when it comes to the safety of our city," Johnson said. "We need more patrol officers, and we need them where they're needed the most."

He acknowledged how 92 veteran officers will be promoted to field training officers, who will train new officers fresh out of the academy on the city's streets.

More than 200 new detectives will be added, through promotions, to improve the clearance rates for homicides and shootings.

"If we want to stop the violence, we need to find and arrest the people that are responsible for it," Johnson said. "If we want to earn the trust and respect of the people we serve, we

need to take their pain seriously and investigate every crime as if it was a crime that happened to one of our own children."

Johnson also said dozens of officers will be promoted to the rank of sergeant in the coming months. He said he hopes the ratio of patrol officers to sergeants will eventually be 8-to-1. Dozens of lieutenants are also going to be named in the near future.

Police officials said they plan to hire new officers to replace those who are promoted. The new hiring would be above and beyond the need to hire new officers to replace those who retire or leave the department for other reasons.

The attrition of existing officers has been exacerbated by the planned departure of many who say they are fed up with the low morale and bad press of the last couple years.

Many details of the hiring, though, remained vague about exactly when the promised officers would be hired and how the city would pay for them.

The announcement comes as the mayor and his police department have been under mounting pressure over rising crime in Chicago.

The homicide rate has increased by 50 percent this year, with the total on pace to exceed

600 by the end of the year, and the U.S. Department of Justice continues to probe the department's oversight in the wake of a string of civil rights scandals.

The lack of supervisors has often been noted by critics as a piece of the department's ongoing problems with misconduct and poor oversight.

Hiring more supervisors was likely to be among the demands that will eventually be made by the Justice Department in its ongoing investigation of Chicago police, which was prompted by the Laquan McDonald officer-involved shooting scandal.

In the past, when the mayor has promised to increase police presence on the street, the reality has been a confusing pattern of rearing officers already on the force—moving people doing desk jobs to the front lines, and shifting resources from low-crime areas to violent hot spots.

The announcement marks the first time Emanuel has floated a plan to hire new officers, adding police back to the budgeted ranks of the police department.

When he first campaigned, he pledged to put more officers on the street without increasing the size of the department.

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the chatter JOIN THE CONVERSATION

threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at @redeyechicago or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to redeye@redeyechicago.com with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

I am recently dating someone 18 years older than me. It started off as just something new and fun, never meaning to go further than friends with benefits. We have now been dating for a year and 3 months. Everything seems perfect. We match in maturity levels, sexual desires, wants and plans for future arrangements, and we agree with each other on most subjects (with a few exceptions). I have no problem with going out with him and introducing him to my friends. But I believe it is time to mention something to my parents. Wondering how I should go about this? Should I wait longer to say something?

—Question via Reddit, edited for length



Courtney Jacquin
In a relationship, 24

• Writer, editor
• @courtneyjacquin

Anything over a year of dating is definitely in the realm of not casual anymore, and if you're close enough with your parents, any time at this point would be the time to tell them about your beau. Are you worried that they'll think the age difference is weird? Eighteen is definitely ... a lot, but if you don't make a big deal about it, it hopefully won't be one. Just don't remind your parents that you were 4 when he was graduating from college. That's weird. Men take a while to mature, so if you feel like you're at the same place in all aspects of life, they'll respect that, hopefully. If he's a good dude, that's all that matters, right?



Isaac Paul
In a relationship, 36

• Host, devil's advocate and resident know-it-all of "The Tequila Tales"
• @thetequilatales

Introducing a potential partner to your parents is generally regarded as a pretty big deal in and of itself, but adding a generational age difference to the conversation makes your apprehension totally justifiable. I suggest you broach the topic in a delicate yet very direct manner. If your parents express any discontent, it will most likely be rooted in their concerns that you are being taken advantage of. So your delivery of this information needs to invoke within them positive emotions that their confident adult daughter has made a decision about who she loves. Be firm in this stance, and your parents won't have a choice but to accept that your chosen mate is going to be a part of your life.



Morgan Olsen
In a relationship, 28

• RedEye Eat & Drink, Lifestyles editor
• @morganolsen

It sounds like you've found quite a match—congratulations! I think you should rip off the Band-Aid and tell your parents sooner rather than later. It will give them more time to process the information and have an open dialogue with you about it (should they have any issues). Start by letting them know you're seeing someone and let them ask the questions. I'm sure they'll want to know what he does, where he's from and, eventually, how old he is. You're not doing anything wrong, so there's no need to preface the conversation with, "Well, you might not approve, but he's ..." Instead, go into it with a calm, level head, and be open to answering their questions or concerns. If you freak out about it, so will they. Best of luck!



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Kyle Hendricks
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PITCH MAN

CUBS' LESTER HAS HENDRICKS' BACK IN CY YOUNG RACE

By Mark Gonzales | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jon Lester was firm and candid in his endorsement of teammate Jake Arrieta nearly one month before Arrieta beat Pittsburgh in the 2015 National League wild-card game last October.



And despite earning his league-leading 18th victory Tuesday while lowering his ERA to 2.36 following a 6-1 win over Cincinnati, Lester was just as blunt in endorsing teammate Kyle Hendricks as his choice for the NL Cy Young Award.

"If I had a vote, [Hendricks] would be my vote," Lester said. "I get to see him every day. I see what he does, how he goes about it, how he prepares, how he goes out and executes. He's my guy. He's who I'd vote for right now, tomorrow, the next day, whenever."

Hendricks has an NL-low (and MLB-low) 2.06 ERA in addition to a 15-8 record. Both pitchers are finishing strong. Hendricks has allowed three earned runs or fewer in 21 consecutive starts and has a 1.32 ERA at Wrigley Field.

Lester has allowed one earned run or fewer in seven consecutive starts and is 9-0 with a 1.46 ERA in 12 starts since the All-Star break.

Max Scherzer of Washington, Madison Bumgarner of San Francisco and Noah Syndergaard of the New York Mets also have credentials that merit consideration for the award.

Lester stressed that 200 innings is his main individual goal, and, with 191 innings, he should reach it with likely two starts left. The Cubs are in line to perhaps win as many as two major awards (most valuable player and Cy Young), but Lester stressed that the team goal remains singular.

"At the end of the day, we want to win a World Series," Lester said. "And I think guys are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel

right now. All we have to do is go out and play good baseball."

The Cubs adjusted their rotation 11 days ago so that Lester would be available to pitch the first game of the NL playoffs on Oct. 7. But Lester, who has pitched in six postseasons, merely said he's "along for the ride."

"If Joe [Maddon] comes up to me and tells me I'm pitching, I'll show up that day and prepare like I have the rest of the season," Lester said. "We have a really, really good staff. So if I'm the guy, it will be a huge honor, definitely with the staff we have. If I'm not the guy, tell me when I'm going. I'll be there, I'll be ready. I'll be prepared. I'll give you everything I got. It would be nice to start a home game here, whether it's the first or second or whatever it is.

HOT DATE THURSDAY

Yep, that would be today. That's when Cubs outfielder Dexter Fowler will be delivering free pizza, part of a promotion for UberEATS. From 6-9 p.m., the app will fork over a free cheese pizza slice to anyone who orders from the general vicinity of the DePaul University or Northwestern University campuses. To be clear, whether Fowler delivers your pizza is the luck of the draw. Still, can you pass up the chance for a Cub to come to your door?

"This atmosphere has been great, a playoff atmosphere. They've expected a lot out of us. And they give us a lot in return as far as energy. It will be an exciting night when it comes. I think I got two more starts left. We'll worry about those."



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CLAIMING SPACE

MARGINALIZED BY MEDIA

PART 1 OF 3

Join us tomorrow and Monday to hear about Kristiana Rae Colón of Black Sex Matters and Angela Davis Fegan of “The Lavender Menace Poster Project,” both of whom are pictured on today’s cover alongside McKinnon and Christian.

‘Two Queens in a Kitchen’ highlights Chicago artists and activists who discuss politics, culture and art while cooking

Written by Heather Schroering • Portraits by Lenny Gilmore | REDEYE

A queen is defined eight ways by Merriam-Webster—among them the wife of a king, a fertile female bee, a goddess or a thing personified as female and having supremacy in a specified realm. All include a female identifier except for this one: “the most privileged piece of each color in a set of chessmen having the power to move in any direction across any number of unoccupied squares.” Privilege. Color. Power. Space. Whoever said life is a game of chess couldn’t be more accurate. ¶ These four words are ever present in civil rights movement conversations. At the forefront of these conversations are activists fighting to claim space and redefine the country’s race relations. Within our generation of revolutionaries are four Chicago artists of color who are raising up marginalized identities in a media-driven world that gravely lacks representations of black, brown and queer-identifying individuals. A director, a professor, a printmaker, a playwright—they are Chicago’s movers and shakers. ¶ The first project in this three-part series that runs through Monday introduces Elijah McKinnon and Aymar Jean Christian of “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” a queer-focused cooking show released by Open TV.

Most ideas born in kitchens end up on plates, but Elijah McKinnon had bigger plans. From a rant during a boozy brunch with friends came “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” a nine-part queer-focused web series released in August featuring Chicago artists and activists of color who discuss politics, culture and art while cooking.

“Historically in a lot of black and brown communities, coming together around the kitchen is a very holistic and spiritual experience,” said McKinnon, the series’ creator and director, who uses the pronouns they/them/their. The concept for the show made a lot of sense to them: Film two artists from different backgrounds in a kitchen doing the things we all do in kitchens, hanging out, making snacks and having challenging conversations.

The series is produced through Open TV, an online platform for alternative television projects that focus on communities often left out of mainstream TV and film. They’re projects by and about people who identify as queer, as trans, as cis (non-trans) women, as people of color or as a combination of those identities.

Each episode of “Two Queens in a Kitchen” pairs two guests of different artstries—a mixed media artist and a DJ, a filmmaker and a visual artist and

yoga instructor, a burlesque performer and a hip-hop artist who works for the public library. They all prepare snacks of their choosing (yes, the recipes are included).

McKinnon’s vision was scientific, much like cooking: “You’re mixing all of these things together, and those particular elements become something so much larger when they’re combined.”

McKinnon, 24, who’s also head of marketing for the platform, said the series is the most all-encompassing of Open TV’s diverse audience, as it features several artists who have worked on past Open TV projects that are more focused on one community.

The independent platform is a research project started by Aymar Jean Christian, an assistant professor of communication studies at Northwestern University and head of development at Open TV, who wanted to study alternative models for TV series development that focused on people who are marginalized in television controlled largely by a handful of conglomerates with networks.

“I saw both on TV and in the independent web series market a lack of representation of people who were not white, straight and cisgender [and shows] that were artistic and intersectional,” said Christian, 32.

HUNGRY FOR REPRESENTATION

Since March 2015, Open TV has released six narrative and documentary series and four pilots, totaling 9.5 hours of programming.

Part of what “Two Queens in a Kitchen” aims to do is raise up real people of color having real conversations presented in a way that’s more dimensional than the hypersexualized, villainous and tokenized characters often portrayed in mainstream TV and film, McKinnon said.

Sam Bailey is a writer, actor and filmmaker who created the award-nominated series “You’re So Talented,” presented by Open TV. Featured in Episode 4 of “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” she said in part one about the reception of her show, “People are just hungry for that type of content, they want to see themselves.”

She talks about a conversation with a biracial actor friend who said that she is extremely judgmental of biracial characters on television. “It’s because we’re so not used to seeing ourselves that you want that one representation to be everything, which is a difficult thing,” Bailey said.

McKinnon identifies with that reaction. They believe that the authenticity of a character can be skewed if the content isn’t produced by people who share their experience and identity. “I don’t just want to see a black character that’s hired as help,” they said. “That’s not fun for me, ... and I’m supposed to be thankful, but that goes back to being conditioned to judge and being hypersensitive of how our bodies are being presented.”

Christian said that while representations of queer-identifying and black and brown communities are getting some in-depth recognition, writers are still reluctant to present those individuals’ complexities. Though single episodes or scenes of shows might focus on some of those complications, they’re still underexplored on the outskirts of the narrative.

“I think that is very frustrating to viewers who identify with those characters because everybody’s life is complex and people want their experiences affirmed,” he said. “You have to survive as a queer black person, you have to find love as a queer black person, and if you grew up in a family that wasn’t like that, where do you get a vision, a model of how to live your life?”

He cited “Orange Is the New Black” creator Jenji Kohan’s NPR interview in which she said that shows about black and Latina women don’t sell to



Elijah McKinnon

network television, but that she could tell those stories through the perspective of a mostly straight white woman. Even though the show prominently features black and Latina women who are queer and trans, the main character, Piper, has more emotional range than the other characters, Christian said.

Overall, TV networks have yet to address the “full range of life of queer and people of color,” Christian said. Even within queer-focused or black-focused shows, he said he’s often upset with the lack of representation of other identities. “The problem is intersectionality,” he said.

McKinnon noted Ava DuVernay (“Selma”) and Shonda Rhimes (“Scandal,” “Grey’s Anatomy”), producers of color who are film and TV pioneers. “I respect the work that they are doing to make space within a larger cultural context, but to be honest, that thing is hard and will always be hard when we live in a world that was not designed to ... uplift black and/or queer experiences,” they said. “If you live in the margin or even bordering it, it’s not something that media was designed to capture.”

Open TV’s goal isn’t to “hold hands” with mass media, but rather to redefine what that looks like, McKinnon said. Christian backed that up, adding that Open TV isn’t interested in a relationship with

legacy media groups. “The goal of Open TV is to support artists whose communities have been marginalized by the mass media,” he said.

Christian hopes Open TV not only gives its audience representation that affirms their experiences but also encourages Chicago-based viewers to get out and support other communities they’re introduced to through the shows.

“That’s something that TV doesn’t do. You can watch ‘Orange Is the New Black’ and see different kinds of people, but what can you do after that to understand more about those people?” he asked. “By looking at TV on a small scale, it opens up so much ... about the artistry of the episode and who made it.”

LIVING FREE

Open TV’s programming, including “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” flies in the face of media erasures. If something isn’t represented, it does not exist, McKinnon said. But they know that not to be true. For them, Open TV ensures that space on the internet is “not only being made but claimed” by queer-identifying people, people of color and anyone who lives in the margins, which is what their series aims to do.

It’s not unlike the digital activism that has char-



Aymar Jean Christian

acterized the Black Lives Matter movement. McKinnon emphasized the movement’s ability to keep media at the forefront of the conversation, highlighting the queer feminist black leaders of this era. While black, brown, queer and transgender people have always been part of civil rights movements, they aren’t slipping through the cracks this time. “If we are able to set free the most marginalized communities within our communities then we are able to set others free,” McKinnon said.

But the most natural form of activism to McKinnon doesn’t live on the internet. It’s about gathering and celebrating black lives, something “Two Queens in a Kitchen” does well. “Those true moments of healing don’t come from a tweet in my perspective,” they said. “They come from those intimate, raw moments that can’t be edited or distilled.”

In part one of Episode 5, hip-hop artist Roy Kinsey asks burlesque performer MS MR JR, who doesn’t have a cellphone, how they live without one. Looking directly in the camera, MS MR JR confidently replies, “free.” Christian said that moment speaks volumes about Open TV, whose mission through the platform is to highlight many identities to show audiences that there are different ways to live.

“People are very scared of their identity because as a culture we want to fit in. Queer people have to come up with a way to be themselves and be free and healthy and love themselves,” he said. “I think everyone at Open TV knows a little bit about what that’s about, what it’s like to live free against all odds, and I think that’s what ‘Two Queens in a Kitchen’ is about.”

That’s exactly what McKinnon hopes viewers take away from the show, that people who need it most find a bit of themselves.

“The reference of ‘queen’ is celebratory. It’s making space and uplifting the divine, the goddess that’s in all of us, so I hope that when folks watch that material, they are aware that that energy lives within all of us,” they said. “The people who are in the series are ... in constant pursuit of that, constantly trying to become more queenly and more excellent within their own regard that’s rooted in self-love or self-worth. And that is the core of ‘Two Queens in a Kitchen.’”

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CLAIMING SPACE

MARGINALIZED BY MEDIA

PART 1 OF 3

Join us tomorrow and Monday to hear about Kristiana Rae Colón of Black Sex Matters and Angela Davis Fegan of “The Lavender Menace Poster Project,” both of whom are pictured on today’s cover alongside McKinnon and Christian.

‘Two Queens in a Kitchen’ highlights Chicago artists and activists who discuss politics, culture and art while cooking

Written by Heather Schroering • Portraits by Lenny Gilmore | REDEYE

A queen is defined eight ways by Merriam-Webster—among them the wife of a king, a fertile female bee, a goddess or a thing personified as female and having supremacy in a specified realm. All include a female identifier except for this one: “the most privileged piece of each color in a set of chessmen having the power to move in any direction across any number of unoccupied squares.” Privilege. Color. Power. Space. Whoever said life is a game of chess couldn’t be more accurate. ¶ These four words are ever present in civil rights movement conversations. At the forefront of these conversations are activists fighting to claim space and redefine the country’s race relations. Within our generation of revolutionaries are four Chicago artists of color who are raising up marginalized identities in a media-driven world that gravely lacks representations of black, brown and queer-identifying individuals. A director, a professor, a printmaker, a playwright—they are Chicago’s movers and shakers. ¶ The first project in this three-part series that runs through Monday introduces Elijah McKinnon and Aymar Jean Christian of “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” a queer-focused cooking show released by Open TV.

Most ideas born in kitchens end up on plates, but Elijah McKinnon had bigger plans. From a rant during a boozy brunch with friends came “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” a nine-part queer-focused web series released in August featuring Chicago artists and activists of color who discuss politics, culture and art while cooking.

“Historically in a lot of black and brown communities, coming together around the kitchen is a very holistic and spiritual experience,” said McKinnon, the series’ creator and director, who uses the pronouns they/them/their. The concept for the show made a lot of sense to them: Film two artists from different backgrounds in a kitchen doing the things we all do in kitchens, hanging out, making snacks and having challenging conversations.

The series is produced through Open TV, an online platform for alternative television projects that focus on communities often left out of mainstream TV and film. They’re projects by and about people who identify as queer, as trans, as cis (non-trans) women, as people of color or as a combination of those identities.

Each episode of “Two Queens in a Kitchen” pairs two guests of different artstries—a mixed media artist and a DJ, a filmmaker and a visual artist and

yoga instructor, a burlesque performer and a hip-hop artist who works for the public library. They all prepare snacks of their choosing (yes, the recipes are included).

McKinnon’s vision was scientific, much like cooking: “You’re mixing all of these things together, and those particular elements become something so much larger when they’re combined.”

McKinnon, 24, who’s also head of marketing for the platform, said the series is the most all-encompassing of Open TV’s diverse audience, as it features several artists who have worked on past Open TV projects that are more focused on one community.

The independent platform is a research project started by Aymar Jean Christian, an assistant professor of communication studies at Northwestern University and head of development at Open TV, who wanted to study alternative models for TV series development that focused on people who are marginalized in television controlled largely by a handful of conglomerates with networks.

“I saw both on TV and in the independent web series market a lack of representation of people who were not white, straight and cisgender [and shows] that were artistic and intersectional,” said Christian, 32.

HUNGRY FOR REPRESENTATION

Since March 2015, Open TV has released six narrative and documentary series and four pilots, totaling 9.5 hours of programming.

Part of what “Two Queens in a Kitchen” aims to do is raise up real people of color having real conversations presented in a way that’s more dimensional than the hypersexualized, villainous and tokenized characters often portrayed in mainstream TV and film, McKinnon said.

Sam Bailey is a writer, actor and filmmaker who created the award-nominated series “You’re So Talented,” presented by Open TV. Featured in Episode 4 of “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” she said in part one about the reception of her show, “People are just hungry for that type of content, they want to see themselves.”

She talks about a conversation with a biracial actor friend who said that she is extremely judgmental of biracial characters on television. “It’s because we’re so not used to seeing ourselves that you want that one representation to be everything, which is a difficult thing,” Bailey said.

McKinnon identifies with that reaction. They believe that the authenticity of a character can be skewed if the content isn’t produced by people who share their experience and identity. “I don’t just want to see a black character that’s hired as help,” they said. “That’s not fun for me, ... and I’m supposed to be thankful, but that goes back to being conditioned to judge and being hypersensitive of how our bodies are being presented.”

Christian said that while representations of queer-identifying and black and brown communities are getting some in-depth recognition, writers are still reluctant to present those individuals’ complexities. Though single episodes or scenes of shows might focus on some of those complications, they’re still underexplored on the outskirts of the narrative.

“I think that is very frustrating to viewers who identify with those characters because everybody’s life is complex and people want their experiences affirmed,” he said. “You have to survive as a queer black person, you have to find love as a queer black person, and if you grew up in a family that wasn’t like that, where do you get a vision, a model of how to live your life?”

He cited “Orange Is the New Black” creator Jenji Kohan’s NPR interview in which she said that shows about black and Latina women don’t sell to



Elijah McKinnon

network television, but that she could tell those stories through the perspective of a mostly straight white woman. Even though the show prominently features black and Latina women who are queer and trans, the main character, Piper, has more emotional range than the other characters, Christian said.

Overall, TV networks have yet to address the “full range of life of queer and people of color,” Christian said. Even within queer-focused or black-focused shows, he said he’s often upset with the lack of representation of other identities. “The problem is intersectionality,” he said.

McKinnon noted Ava DuVernay (“Selma”) and Shonda Rhimes (“Scandal,” “Grey’s Anatomy”), producers of color who are film and TV pioneers. “I respect the work that they are doing to make space within a larger cultural context, but to be honest, that thing is hard and will always be hard when we live in a world that was not designed to ... uplift black and/or queer experiences,” they said. “If you live in the margin or even bordering it, it’s not something that media was designed to capture.”

Open TV’s goal isn’t to “hold hands” with mass media, but rather to redefine what that looks like, McKinnon said. Christian backed that up, adding that Open TV isn’t interested in a relationship with

legacy media groups. “The goal of Open TV is to support artists whose communities have been marginalized by the mass media,” he said.

Christian hopes Open TV not only gives its audience representation that affirms their experiences but also encourages Chicago-based viewers to get out and support other communities they’re introduced to through the shows.

“That’s something that TV doesn’t do. You can watch ‘Orange Is the New Black’ and see different kinds of people, but what can you do after that to understand more about those people?” he asked. “By looking at TV on a small scale, it opens up so much ... about the artistry of the episode and who made it.”

LIVING FREE

Open TV’s programming, including “Two Queens in a Kitchen,” flies in the face of media erasures. If something isn’t represented, it does not exist, McKinnon said. But they know that not to be true. For them, Open TV ensures that space on the internet is “not only being made but claimed” by queer-identifying people, people of color and anyone who lives in the margins, which is what their series aims to do.

It’s not unlike the digital activism that has char-



Aymar Jean Christian

acterized the Black Lives Matter movement. McKinnon emphasized the movement’s ability to keep media at the forefront of the conversation, highlighting the queer feminist black leaders of this era. While black, brown, queer and transgender people have always been part of civil rights movements, they aren’t slipping through the cracks this time. “If we are able to set free the most marginalized communities within our communities then we are able to set others free,” McKinnon said.

But the most natural form of activism to McKinnon doesn’t live on the internet. It’s about gathering and celebrating black lives, something “Two Queens in a Kitchen” does well. “Those true moments of healing don’t come from a tweet in my perspective,” they said. “They come from those intimate, raw moments that can’t be edited or distilled.”

In part one of Episode 5, hip-hop artist Roy Kinsey asks burlesque performer MS MR JR, who doesn’t have a cellphone, how they live without one. Looking directly in the camera, MS MR JR confidently replies, “free.” Christian said that moment speaks volumes about Open TV, whose mission through the platform is to highlight many identities to show audiences that there are different ways to live.

“People are very scared of their identity because as a culture we want to fit in. Queer people have to come up with a way to be themselves and be free and healthy and love themselves,” he said. “I think everyone at Open TV knows a little bit about what that’s about, what it’s like to live free against all odds, and I think that’s what ‘Two Queens in a Kitchen’ is about.”

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Bible of beer

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE
TO CHICAGO OKTOBERFEST,
FALL BEER FESTIVALS

SEPT. 22

Oktoberfest & Pumpkin Beer Festival

When: 5-9 p.m. Thursday

Where: Delilah's (2771 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-472-2771)

How much: \$20

The Lincoln Park bar celebrates its 10th annual tasting of Oktoberfest and pumpkin beers with more than 50 options on offer, including five vintage **Ayinger Oktober Fest marzens** and three vintage Southern Tier Pumpking imperial pumpkin ales. Other tasting options include Paulaner Oktoberfest marzen, Erdinger Oktoberfest hefeweizen, New Holland Ichabod pumpkin ale, Buffalo Bill's pumpkin ale and more.

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

In a perfect world, trees would shed not autumnal leaves but rather pumpkin ales and marzen beers for us to frolic in. Thankfully, Chicago offers a bounty of fall beer events, where we can all bask in the golden-amber luster. From Revolution Brewing's Oktoberfest Party and St. Alphonsus Oktoberfest to Chicago Bacon and Beer Classic and Logan Square Beer Festival, fall is officially here. Start planning your weekends accordingly.

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SEPT. 23-25

St. Alphonsus Oktoberfest

When: 5-10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

Where: St. Alphonsus Church (1429 W. Wellington Ave.)

How much: \$5 Friday and Saturday, free Sunday
Chow down on bratwurst, pretzels and authentic German fare at the 16th annual Lakeview fest with traditional live music and plenty of beer. Partake in craft beer nights Friday and Saturday, and sample up to 20 beers (\$40 per session). Kicking off the fest on Thursday is the new Brat Trot 5K Run/Walk at Diversey Harbor, where participants are encouraged to dress in their

Bavarian best for a lakeside run. All participants receive \$10 to spend on food or drink at the fest (6:30 p.m. 2430 N. Cannon Drive. \$40-\$50. Tickets: eventbrite.com).

SEPT. 23-24

Revolution Oktoberfest Party

When: 6-9 p.m. Friday and 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Saturday

Where: Revolution Brewery backlot (3340 N. Kedzie Ave. 773-227-2739)

How much: \$10. Tickets: revbrew.com

Sip the Avondale brewery's seasonal traditional German lager, along with Fist City pale

ale, Rev Pils pilsner and more, at the annual fest. On the food front, chow down on eats including Oktoberfest-brined smoked chicken, smoked pork hocks, currywurst, potato salad and cucumber salad. Tickets include a half-liter stein of beer and live music from She's Crafty all-female Beastie Boys tribute (Friday session), Word to Your Mother's '90s tribute (Saturday afternoon session) and American Thighs AC/DC tribute plus Slutterm, an all-female Kiss cover band (Saturday evening session). Additional beer and food tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 and can be purchased at the event, though it's encouraged they be purchased in advance.

SEPT. 25

Dusek's Blocktoberfest

When: Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

Where: 18th and Allport streets

How much: Free

Celebrate the Pilsen restaurant's third anniversary with beer, cocktails and German-inspired food. Nosh on bratwurst with beer onions and crispy shallots (\$9), rye pretzels with sharp cheddar (\$5) and a housemade ginger-hop cookie (\$4). Sip Erdinger beer (\$6), punch from

Punch House (\$8), wine (\$8) and more. Catch DJ sets from Ralphi Rosario from Hot Mix 5, Cqchifruit and others.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2

St. Benedict's OktoberFest

When: 3-10 p.m. Friday, 1-10 p.m. Saturday and 3-8 p.m. Sunday

Where: St. Benedict Parish (2215 W. Irving Park Road)

How much: Free

Celebrate 51 years of festing at the North Center church with food, beer and music. Enjoy live music by The Bratwurst Brothers on Friday (6 p.m.), The McGowens and Second Hand Soul Band on Saturday (1 and 6 p.m., respectively) and The Paloma on Sunday (3 p.m.). Along with beer and wine, fill up on food from Himmel's Lincoln Square German restaurant.

THROUGH OCT. 31

The Berghoff Oktoberfest

When: 4:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and noon-3 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 8

Where: The Berghoff (17 W. Adams St. 312-427-3170)

How much: No cover

The Loop legend takes its 31st Oktoberfest celebration inside with live music through Oct. 8 and specials through Oct. 31. Lunch and dinner deals include Bavarian pretzels with beer and cheddar dipping sauce, sweet mustard and Dusseldorf mustard (\$8.25-\$8.50), wiener schnitzel with vegetables and potatoes (\$19.95-\$21.95) and a sausage trio of bratwurst, knockwurst, smoked Thuringer, sauerkraut and potato salad (\$14.95-\$17.95). Live entertainment is provided by The Johnny Wagner Band, The Bratwurst Brothers, Alpine Thunder and others.



OCT. 1 Chicago Bacon and Beer Classic

When: Noon-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Saturday

Where: Soldier Field
(1410 S. Museum Campus Drive)

How much: \$69

Tickets: baconandbeerclassic.com

Sample beer and **bacon** dishes from local chefs at this annual fest of gluttony. Feast on bacon-chili mac 'n' cheese from Public House, candied bacon from Belly Up Smokehouse & Saloon, bacon-caramel pork belly banh mi from Red Door Kitchen & Bar and spiced bacon with coconut ice cream from Whirlyball. Wash it down with beer from 3 Sheeps Brewing Co., BuckleDown Brewing, Pipeworks Brewing Co., Hopewell Brewing and more. Along with Jenga, participate in a bacon-eating contest (1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.) and a bungee run. Admission includes unlimited samples.

OCT. 1 Logan Square Beer Festival

When: 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Saturday

Where: Logan Square Auditorium
(2539 N. Kedzie Blvd.)

How much: \$39.99 per session.

Tickets: logansquarebeerfestival.com

Taste barrel-aged, cask-conditioned and collaboration brews from more than 15 breweries, such as Middle Brow Beer Co.'s Miner Green Peach saison brewed with green peaches in collaboration with Lula Cafe, Virtue Cider's Mitten winter cider aged in bourbon barrels, and a firkin of Metropolitan Brewing's Dynamo Copper lager with ancho and chipotle peppers.

OCT. 7-9 Rocktober Beerfest

When: 5-10 p.m. Friday and noon-10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

Where: Randolph Street and Ogden Avenue

How much: \$10 gate fee. \$20-\$40 beer and food packages. **Tickets:** eventsprout.com

This annual fest offers Samuel Adams OctoberFest beer and other selections, along with brats and pretzels from Four Corner Tavern Group. Three beer and food packages ranging from \$20-\$40 include entry to the festival and the following options: The Basics (one 25-ounce beer in a souvenir stein and a pretzel, \$20), The Sampler (seven 7-ounce samples and a pretzel, \$30) and The Taster (three 25-ounce beers in a souvenir stein, a pretzel and a brat, \$40).



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE FILE

OCT. 9 Baderbrau Oktoberfest

When: 1-7 p.m. Sunday

Where: Baderbrau Tap & Brewery
(2515 S. Wabash Ave.)

How Much: \$15. **Tickets:** eventbrite.com

The South Loop brewery that opened earlier this year celebrates its first Oktoberfest with food, music and beer (of course). Munch on sausages, currywurst, spaetzle and side salads while listening to oompah sounds from Euro Express. Admission includes a half-liter souvenir stein full of **Oktoberfest** or any of the brewery's other options.



REDEYE FILE

NOV. 11-12 Festival of Wood and Barrel Aged Beers

When: 6-10 p.m. Friday, 1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.

Saturday

Where: UIC Forum (725 W. Roosevelt Road)

How Much: Sold out

The Illinois Craft Brewers Guild's highly anticipated fest of rare and **unique wood- and barrel-aged brews** is in its 14th year. Lucky ticket holders will sample beers ranging in style from stouts and porters to pales, sours, ciders, fruit beers and more, from about 150 brewers pouring 350-something beers.



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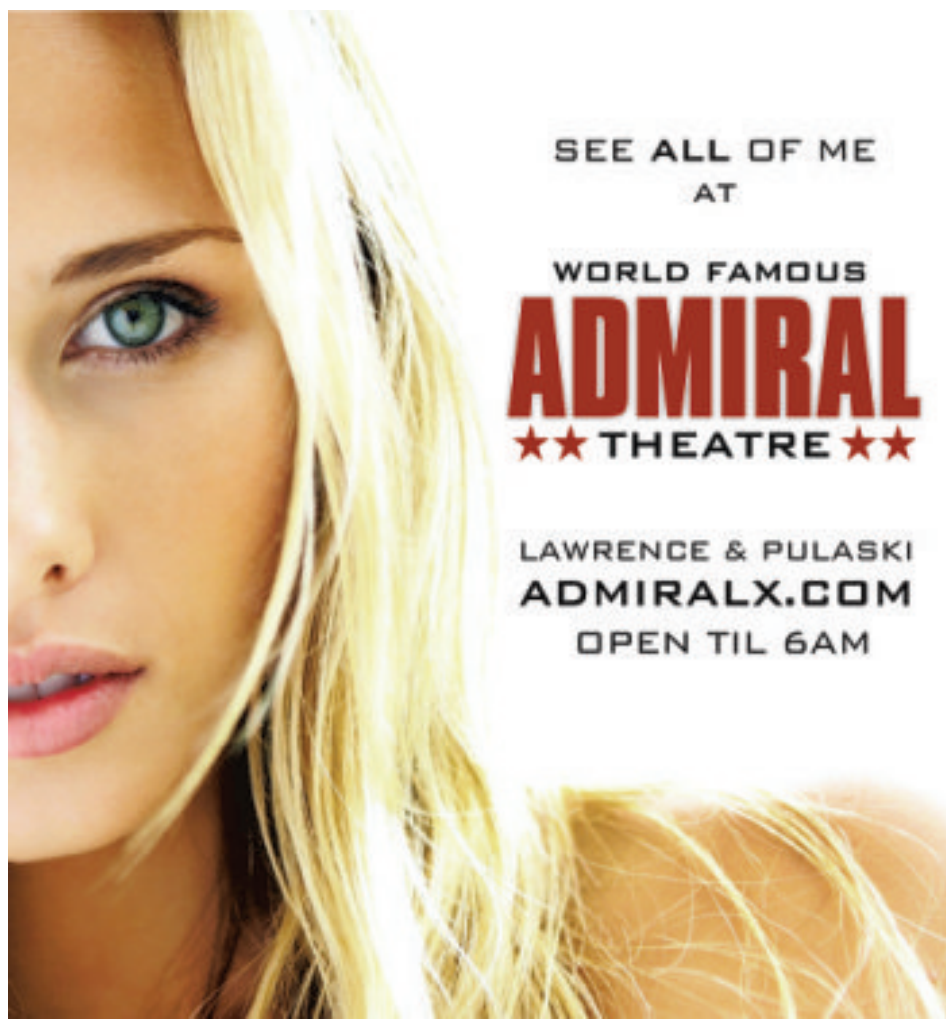
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6 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Gwendolyn Purdom | FOR REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits. GWENDOLYN PURDOM IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.

THURSDAY
Comedy for Conflict Resolution
Plante Moran First Floor
10 S. Riverside Plaza 312-922-6464

Improv comedians' "Yes, and..." mantra seems like a logical fit with the Center for Conflict Resolution's long-running mission to work with individuals, courts and communities to resolve conflicts, and at this benefit for the not-for-profit organization's meditation programs, improvisers will provide the entertainment while local brewers and restaurants serve refreshments. 5:30-8 p.m. \$20-\$40. Tickets: cchicago.org

FRIDAY
Simmer Brown
@North Bar
1637 W. North Ave. 773-697-3563

Fresh off his debut on Comedy Central's "Roast Battle," comic Xavier Lamont will headline this month's stand-up comedy collective, along with featured performers Shannon Noll, Michael Robinson, improv team Fun Fun Boys and more. 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. Tickets: [simmerbrownsept2016.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SATURDAY
Black Box Comedy Presents: Rachel McCartney
The WIP Theater
6670 N. Northwest Highway 312-692-9327
Chicago stand-up comedian Rachel McCartney—a veteran of Laugh Factory, Zanies and Chicago Underground Comedy—headlines this showcase of local and touring comics. 10 p.m. \$15. Tickets: wiptheater.com

SUNDAY
Improvvised Marvel
Second City's de Maat Studio Theatre
230 W. North Ave. 312-337-3992

Iron Man can handle evil Ultron and his adamantium suit, but is he ready for a bunch of improv comedians? The Comic Book Cabaret tackles "Avengers: Age of Ultron" in this week's improvised take on the Marvel universe. 7 p.m. \$11-\$13. Tickets: secondcity.com

MONDAY
Camp Pain Election Debate Special
Zanies
1548 N. Wells St. 312-337-4027

Even if you're having a hard time finding humor in the current presidential election, watching the first debate live with ridiculous commentary from local stand-up comedians and improvisers might just change your mind. Tim Slagle hosts the "Mystery Science Theater"-style event. 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. \$10 plus a two-item food or beverage minimum. Tickets: chicago.zanies.com

TUESDAY
Fackbuddies & Den Friends
The iO Theater
1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401

Seasoned pros and newbie improvisers team up in this longform, R-rated performance showcase cooked up by improviser Dina Facklis that features a different guest each week. This week, groups formed during The Den Theater's partnership with The Improv Den will kick things off. 8:30 p.m. \$12. Tickets: ioimprov.com

Want to see your show in Set the Scene? Us too! Send details to Morgan Olsen at mcolsen@redeyechicago.com for consideration.

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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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WAFFLESFADE

AVALONPALENESS

NILEDaubNICHE

TESSEARLTAHOE

AWESRARESLOPS

TODAY IN THE YEAR

1911: Pitcher Cy Young, then 44, gained his 511th and final career victory as he hurled a 1-0 shutout for the Boston Rustlers against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Forbes Field.

1964: The musical "Fiddler on the Roof," starring Zero Mostel, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 3,242 performances.

1985: Rock and country music artists participated in "Farm Aid," a concert staged in Champaign, to help the nation's farmers.

ACROSS

1 Albacore or bluefin

5 Record with many songs

10 as molasses

14 "Sesame!"; Ali Baba's cry

15 Idaho's capital

16 it up; have a ball

17 Three- sloth

18 Frequently

20 At the of the day; ultimately

21 Dyer's tubs

22 Come ; unravel

23 Suspicious

25 Upper respiratory bug

26 Minded

28 Author James Fenimore

31 Actor Tyrone

32 Large fruit

34 Taxi

36 on; trampled

37 Send payment

38 Ulna or scapula

39 Gentleman

40 Dawn

41 Smooths wood

42 Glided over ice

44 Bothers

45 June honoree

46 Crystal that emits a colorful ray

47 Paula, once of "American Idol"

50 Stringed instrument

51 " all Greek to me"

54 Property and homes for sale

57 Aberdeen resident

58 Isn't able to

59 Window pieces

60 Uncommon

61 Colors

62 Uneasy feeling

63 Murdered

DOWN

1 Carry

2 "Once a time..."

3 Embroidery

4 "The King _ I"

5 "All _!"; train conductor's cry

6 Very high, as mountains

7 Tiny pieces

8 up; spend

9 Fellows

10 Err

11 _ beans

12 the moon; delighted

13 Vane direction

19 Eagle's claw

21 Swerve

24 Watched

25 Twelve inches

26 for; picks

27 Yeltsin or Karloff

28 Cut coupons

29 Cost-effective

30 Travis or Quaid

32 Repair

33 Australian bird that can't fly

35 Mrs. Truman

37 Regretted

38 Forbids

40 No longer fresh

41 Make a tiny cut

43 Grown-ups

44 Take to jail

46 Meat spreads

47 Part of the foot

48 Boyfriend

49 Copenhagen

50 up; end a phone call

52 Ripped

53 Worry; fret

55 Hot tub

56 Light brown

57 Yrbk. section

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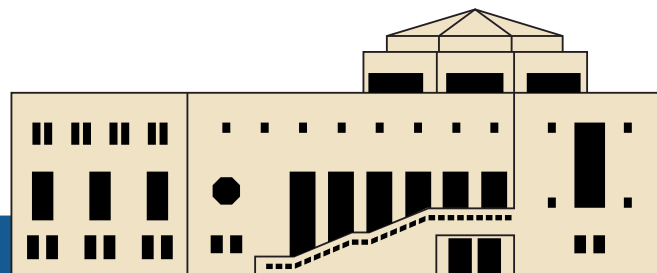
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DON'T BLUE YOURSELF, BUT...

Another season of "Arrested Development" is supposedly set to begin filming, if an interview with Jeffrey Tambor (aka George Bluth) on "Today" is to be believed—and we're choosing to believe it because the world needs another season. When asked about the future of the Bluth family, Tambor told Al Roker that he has "marching orders" to "go to work [in] January." The fourth season aired on Netflix in 2013, but we all knew that wasn't going to be enough.



'Fuller House'

HOT DATE

Dec. 9

As if one mediocre season of "Fuller House" so far this year wasn't enough, Netflix is blessing us with another one on Dec. 9. Merry Christmas, we have an entire season of material to laugh about with our family over the holidays. Netflix shared the news on their Twitter account on Wednesday, posting an image that lacked any sign of Danny Tanner, Uncle Jesse or Uncle Joey.

THE QUOTE

"The most disappointing thing to me was that I was painted as the bad guy, because I value the way I carry myself. I don't want people to see me as, 'Oh, he just ran out, just left them there.' That's just not true."

—Former "Live!" host and NFL player **Michael Strahan**, in an E! News article, on the drama surrounding his exit from the show he co-hosted with Kelly Ripa, which he left for "Good Morning America." According to eonline.com, the decision blindsided Ripa, and things got so tense on screen that Strahan left the show early "at executives' request."



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Billy on the stage

Billy Eichner will have yet another opportunity to yell into a microphone, but this time it'll be on "Hairspray Live!" as Rob Barker, a newscaster, according to vulture.com. While we're stoked to see him do what he was born to do—yell into a microphone, obv—we're pretty upset that we'll be deprived of his cutting commentary about "Hairspray Live!" Guess we'll just have to make fun of it ourselves.

Back to the building

Adding to the growing collection of movies and TV series that dive into the world of rock 'n' roll comes an Elvis biopic from the Weinstein Company, according to deadline.com. The 10-part series will be made with support from the Presley estate and will film partially at Graceland itself, making it the first scripted TV series to do so, Deadline reported. Priscilla Presley will be involved as an executive producer.

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